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500.43701X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: OKUDA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/809,464

Filed: March 26, 2004

Title: METHOD AND ITS APPARATUS FOR
CLASSIFYING DEFECTS

Art Unit: 2621

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Mail Stop: DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 21, 2006

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the document listed in the attached Form(s) PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B for the Examiner's consideration as well as a listing of a US patent document.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

To the extent that the document listed on the attached form equivalent to Form(s) PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language translation of the document and the following remarks.

JP 2001-135692 claims priority for US Application Serial No. 09/334,049 which has issued as US Patent No. 6,922,482.

In Fig. 7, JP 2001-135692, the classification system is constituted by the core classifier 700 and the specific adaptive classifiers 720a-720e. Then, the classification depicted in Fig. 2 is implemented by the flow charge depicted in Fig. 6. However the

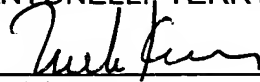
document neither discloses nor suggests the feature of "to calculate the likelihood that the extracted defects belong to a classification class" in the "preparing" step of claim 1 of this application.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement and the document listed be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.43701X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

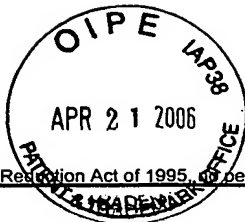
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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(fill in as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Complete if Known | | | |
| | | Application Number | 10/809,464 | | |
| | | Filing Date | 3/26/2004 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | OKUDA et al | | |
| | | Art Unit | 2621 | | |
| Examiner Name | | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 500.43701X00 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Patent Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
| | | US- 6,922,482 | | 7/26/05 | Ben-Porath | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | | |
| | | JP 2001-135692 | | 5/18/01 | Applied Materials, Inc. | English Translation | |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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